



11th Assembly District E - Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the 11th Assembly District E-Newsletter. As your representative in the State Assembly, I want to inform you of any key issues or legislative developments that may be of interest to you, and keep you updated on my activities in Sacramento. In an effort to better serve you, I am establishing this E-newsletter. I believe this newsletter will be a very efficient tool which will provide you with important information and timely updates.

Please take a moment to review the newsletter. I hope that you will find it useful, and I look forward to receiving any comments, questions or suggestions you might have about the contents of the newsletter.

Feel free to e-mail me at assemblymember.canciamilla@assembly.ca.gov or contact my District Office at (925) 372-7990

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in Sacramento.

Regards ,

Joe Canciamilla

Pamela Aguilar

11th Assembly District
Woman of the Year



Left to Right - Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Pamela Aguilar, Assemblyman Joseph Canciamilla

Pamela Aguilar, the Northern California Political and Legislative Field Director for AFSCME (American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees) and current President of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council was honored on Monday, March 15th as the 11th Assembly District's Woman of the Year.

Each year the California State Assembly honors one woman from each of the 80 Assembly Districts for their contributions.

Pam, a resident of Pittsburg, was selected by Assemblymember Canciamilla as Woman of the Year in recognition of her efforts to improve the environment for working families across our state and the country. In addition to her advocacy efforts on behalf of workers, Pam was also recognized for her efforts to bring awareness to residents of Contra Costa County on many important social and economic issues.

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Budget Watch

2004 is shaping up to be another difficult year in Sacramento. The state budget is an issue that affects virtually every resident in the State of California. In spite of the passage of Propositions 57 and 58, we are looking at a \$14 to \$17 billion-dollar deficit.

Most of you are aware of the budget reform proposals I offered last year. Although not successful in getting our colleagues to adopt our entire reform proposal, Assemblyman Keith Richman and I were pleased that major components of our reform proposal served as a foundation for Proposition 58, the spending cap ballot measure.

We are still looking at serious cuts to major state programs and it is my contention that serious budget reform, including oversight and increased efficiency, is necessary to close the deficit gap.

The Governor's revised budget will be out in May and it will take concerted and dedicated effort to come to a budget agreement by the constitutional deadline. It is my hope that we will be able to put partisanship aside and meet that deadline. Budget subcommittees have been meeting, and negotiations will change constantly.

As we proceed with the legislative session, I will do my best to keep you informed of important budget details and bill proposals.

Between the Aisles

I remain focused on changing the current environment of partisanship in the Capitol to one of cooperation and commitment to solving our State's current problems. This year I am the Chair of the Assembly's Democratic Moderate Caucus, whose focus is to promote economic growth and increase government efficiency.

Additionally I continue to Co-Chair, along with Assemblymember Keith Richman (R-Northridge), the Bipartisan group we formed last year. I am encouraged that the group's membership has grown since last year.

Furthermore, I continue to believe that a combination of structural reform measures are necessary to change the way we do business in Sacramento. These include (1) adoption of an independent redistricting process, (2) adoption of an open primary process, and (3) term limit reform.

Both of these groups are working toward finding middle ground between the Republicans and Democrats and looking for ways to create a more solution-oriented atmosphere in the legislature.

Energy Update

Summer will soon be here. As the temperatures begin to increase, so will our demand on our current energy resources.

As a member of the Utilities & Commerce Committee, one of my primary goals will be to see that steps are taken to ensure that there is an adequate and reliable supply of both electricity and natural gas for California consumers. I strongly believe that the Legislature should take action to stabilize California's energy market this year or the state will face another electricity shortage by 2006.

During the energy crisis of 2001, the Legislature and the Governor enacted legislation that solved some of the market's short-term problems. They postponed action on other issues, however, such as long-term wholesale and retail market reform. Without immediate action on these issues, California will not be able to construct enough power plants with sufficient capacity to avoid another electricity shortage.

In order to stabilize the energy market and electricity rates, I have introduced legislation (AB 428) to establish a fair, competitive wholesale energy market. This legislation also proposes to re-regulate the retail electricity market for residential energy consumers and to preserve competition in the retail market for large businesses and other heavy energy users. Finally, I have introduced legislation (AB 808) that calls for the reorganization of California's energy agencies to increase accountability and ensure timely implementation of the state's energy policy.

I will be providing you with more specifics on these bills and their progress in future editions of the newsletter.

Committee Assignments

I am pleased to serve on the following Assembly Committees.

Chair - Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
Budget Committee
Budget Subcommittee on Resources
Committee on Governmental Reorganization
Utilities & Commerce Committee



Workers Compensation

Aside from the budget, reform of the State's Worker's Compensation program is an issue that continues to dominate the debate in Sacramento. All parties are engaged in finding a legislative solution to this problem. The issue is extremely complex. Employers are concerned with increasing insurance costs, affected employees are concerned with changes to benefits.

Talks on this subject will be especially intense in the coming week as the deadline for placing measures on the November ballot approaches.

In the event that the legislature and the Governor cannot reach an agreement on this reform by April 15th, it is expected that there will be a proposal in the form of an initiative on the upcoming November ballot.

Mobile District Office

Because of the size of the 11th Assembly District, stretching from Hercules and Pinole in the West to Antioch and Pittsburg in the east, I know it is not always easy for constituents to get to my district office in Martinez. To address this issue, I have established a mobile district office program. Over the past several weekends, my staff has set up shop in Sun Valley Mall in Concord and Somersville Town Center in Antioch to distribute tax forms and provide constituent services. We intend to continue this program in other parts of the district as well. As my schedule permits, I will join staff members at various sites. If you know of a location where we might be able to serve your area, please call my district office at (925) 372-7990.

Questions?

We receive hundreds of e-mails and letters each day on various issues. Many times, we will receive inquiries about the same topic or issue from a number of people. I would like to answer some of the inquiries directly in future editions of the newsletter. If you have a question, please e-mail me at assemblymember.canciamilla@assembly.ca.gov.

One or two (space permitting) of the most frequently asked questions will be selected and answered in our newsletter.

Consumer Alert

In the course of assisting residents with various state-related problems, my staff has uncovered information that the general public may not be aware of. I would like to share this information with you.

Resolving two recent cases related to the Department of Motor Vehicles revealed the following.

When you sell your vehicle you must complete a "Release of Liability" form and either mail or take it to the DMV. However, the DMV can take from 12 to 16 weeks to actually process the transfer. You remain the owner of record until that transfer takes place. In addition, should the new owner of the vehicle not register the vehicle in his or her own name in a timely manner, you will still be recorded as the owner of record until they do. Always make and retain a copy of the "Release of Liability" form you have submitted, taking note of the date you submit it. Call the DMV monthly to see if the release has been received and recorded and to determine if the new owner has re-registered the vehicle.

The DMV can be reached at (800) 777-0133.

Contact Us

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